

Sub  
C1  
CMT  
B<sup>2</sup>

said half-shells defining a free gap therebetween, (said free gap being bounded inwardly by said inner contour) and said heat-expansible element; and

(said heat-expansible element having a shape corresponding substantially to said free gap.)

Sub  
E2

Claim 4 (twice amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said heat-expansible element has material-free spaces in the area next to said latching device.

B3  
Sub  
C3

Claim 5 (twice amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said first half-shell has said inner contour, said second half-shell has a region corresponding to said inner contour, and (said latching device is disposed within said inner contour and said region of said second half-shell.)

Sub  
C4  
B4

Claim 8 (twice amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on an inner surface of one of said half-shells.

Sub  
C5  
B5

Claim 11 (amended). A configuration for separating cavities for sealing or sound-proofing, comprising:

a heat-expansible element; and

Sub  
GS  
cent.  
BS  
a retaining device to be positioned in a cross-sectional region of a cavity, said retaining device having two half-shells being fixated to one another with a free gap between said two half-shells, and said heat-expansible element being retained between said two half-shells.

Claim 12 (amended). The configuration according to claim 1, wherein (one of said two half-shells has an inner contour enclosing said heat-expansible element) --